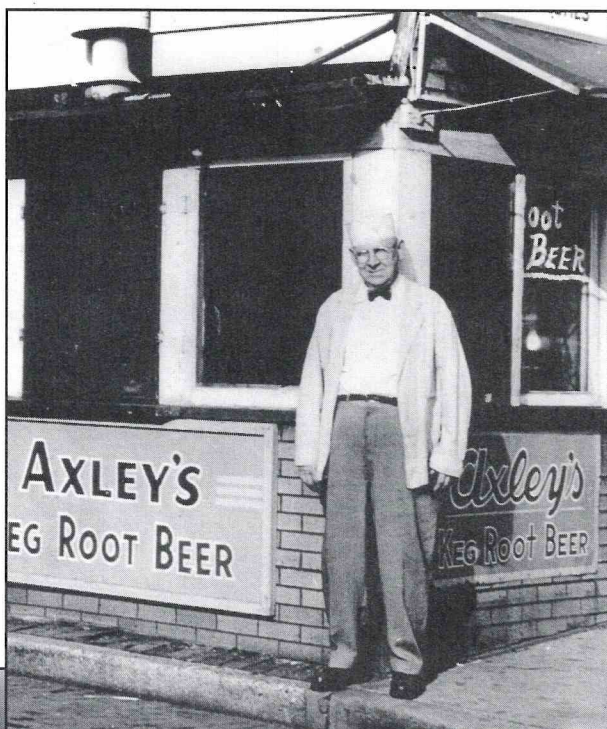


# TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

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"Pop" Axley in front of Axley's Keg Root Beer.



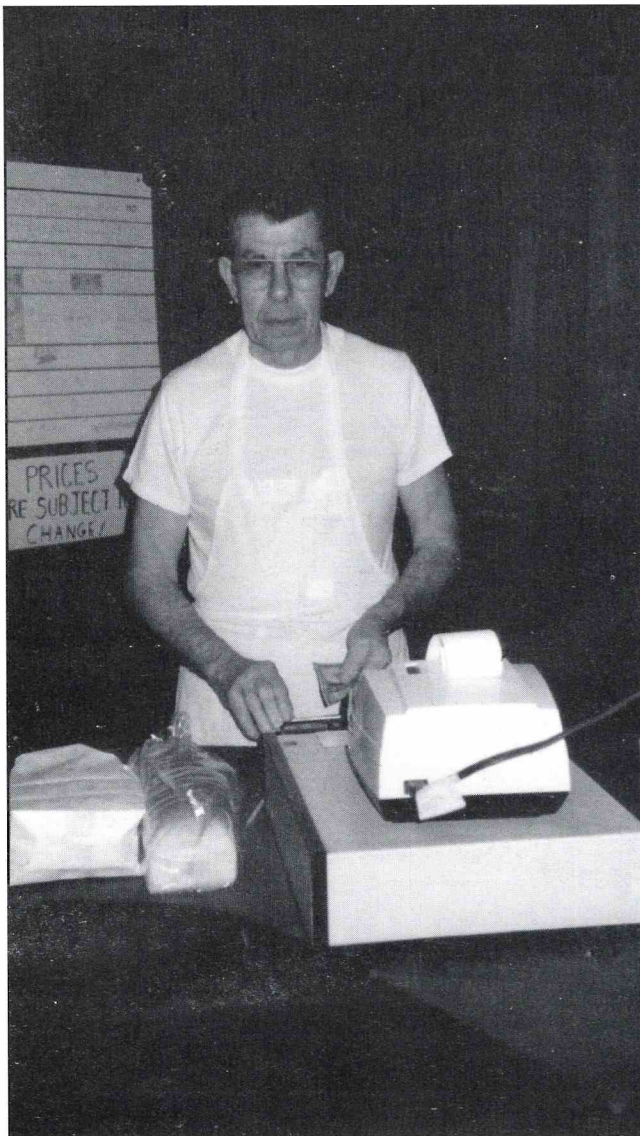
Grace Hallbauer, Cecelia Ruppert, Gertrude Hammack and Ida May Miller. Four Perry County Centenarians - 1998.



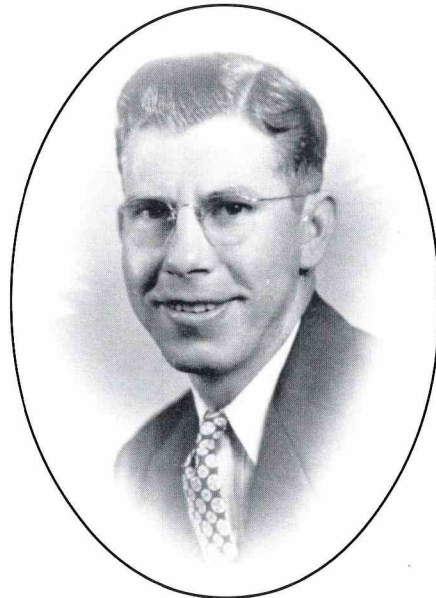
## IN MEMORY OF BILL STULL AND STULL'S BAKERY

During his young teens Bill Stull worked in the Tamaroa Bakery operated by Ruby Haggard and August Leuschke. Money wasn't easy to obtain during those Depression Days and most kids did several jobs to earn spending money. Bill's family was not a wealthy one; his father, John Roy Stull, worked as drag carrier for the railroad, for hauling freight and merchandise. Lora Mae (Thomson Stull), his mother, a homemaker, reared four boys. Bill used to say about those times, "I wore patches on my clothes like the other kids and I'm proud of it."

Later, both parents worked at the Tamaroa Public School; Mr. Stull as the janitor and Mrs. Stull as a cook in the cafeteria. Bill attended Du Quoin High School since Tamaroa didn't have a high school then. He played on the basketball team and worked part-time in Theobald's Home Bakery acquiring more baking knowledge. He and his friends often ice skated from Tamaroa to Du Quoin when the weather was icy or he would "thumb" his way to and from those towns.



Bill Stull, owner of Stull's Bakery.



Bill Stull

By the time Bill attended high school Leuschke had moved to Pinckneyville and started work for Adam Buettner's Bakery on the corner of Kaskaskia and Douglas Streets. Bill joined him for a time. Many conversations about the Buettner Bakery centered on the two large brick ovens outside used for baking bread. The ovens stood for many years after the building was torn down.

World War II came and both Bill and Gus served their country. Bill served in the U.S. Air Force five and one half years and was given an honorable discharge. In 1946, after his discharge, Bill again went to work for Leuschke, who by this time owned the bakery at 7 North Main, on the west side of the square in Pinckneyville. Bill met and married Phyllis Crain, who kept the books and did all the paper work. In 1962 they purchased the shop from Leuschke. The customers were unaware of the change in ownership since there was no change in the taste of the products; everything was the same. During his baking career Bill attended various seminars, baking courses and school. He never used preservatives, imitations, or packaged products; everything was baked from scratch. When asked how he made his pastries his answer was, "good old Beaucoup water."

Bill served the public for many years employing assistant bakers, store clerks and high school students. He serviced hospitals, local school cafeterias and all their functions, people far and wide, and was asked to start bakeries in other states. His salt-free bread was the first in the community. Many hours of hard labor went into his work but he loved every moment. He was a quiet and gracious person and may not be remembered as such but his baked products will never be forgotten.

After quietly retiring, he was diagnosed with lung cancer of both lungs. One lung was eventually healed but, by this time, he was too frail and weak for his body to accept more chemotherapy treatments. On 1 November 1995 he passed away taking his recipes with him. He is interred at Sunset Memorial Park in Du Quoin and, having no heirs, this was the end of the Stull's Bakery. *Submitted by Phyllis Crain Stull*



## IN MEMORY OF LOUIS AND HATTIE SUCHOMSKI AND SUCHOMSKI'S STORE AT TODD'S MILL

Louis Suchomski and Hattie Ochap who were born and raised in the local area were married on 24 October 1933 at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Todd's Mill. Both Louis and Hattie worked in St. Louis before they were married. It is not known as to whether Louis had a job or occupation in the Todd's Mill community when he and Hattie were married.

Louis and Hattie lived with his parents in the Todd's Mill community after their marriage and Louis started hauling milk to the dairy in Nashville, Illinois in a car that was converted to a truck. Back in the 1930's, the trip to Nashville was more difficult than it is today as many roads were not even rocked, let alone paved. Louis and Hattie soon built their own two room home on a three acre tract of land that was given to them by Louis' parents.

Since Louis was going to Nashville daily, some of the farmers started asking Louis to bring them groceries from Alf's Grocery Store in Nashville. Mr. Alf suggested to Louis that he begin to operate his own store in the Todd's Mill community and offered to sell him \$10.00 worth of groceries on credit to begin his enterprise. Thus, Suchomski's Store was started in a corner of one of the rooms of the two room residence.

In 1939, a new home was built and then the entire older two room building was used for the growing Suchomski's store. In 1941, construction was started on a new building which was to be used for a Hudson auto dealership. Due to W.W.II, the production of automobiles was stopped in the US and with no cars available, the plans were changed. One half of the new building was then used for the Suchomski General Merchandise Store. The other half of the building was used as a repair shop for autos, trucks and other equipment. A Reo truck dealership was acquired in 1948.

In 1950, the construction of a new larger concrete block building was begun to house the still growing Suchomski's Store. This was the building that still housed the store when the business was closed in 1997. As always, plans were subject to change and when the new building was completed in 1952, it became a tavern and dance hall for about two years. Also in 1952, Louis started an Oliver tractor/farm equipment dealership.

When the dance hall operation was discontinued, the Suchomski General Merchandise business was moved into the new building and the older building was used exclusively for the farm machinery sales, parts and repair business. In the fall of 1957, the building that housed the farm equipment business was completely destroyed by fire. Both the general merchandise store and farm equipment business were then operated out of the remaining building until 1977. In 1977, a new building was constructed on State Route 127 (two and a half miles west of the then current operation) to house the farm equipment business. The Suchomski Farm Equipment business is still operating today and is owned and operated by Sylvester Suchomski (Louis and Hattie's son) and Jeffrey Suchomski who is Sylvester's son.

With the changes in rural population and better roads that have taken place over time, the role that Suchomski's Store played in the Todd's Mill community was also changed. Sylvester's wife, Rose Mary, was involved in the operation of the store for sometime prior to the deaths of Louis and Hattie and then operated the store until it was closed. The general

merchandise business was slowly reduced in scope and was completely discontinued on 27 September 1997 when the remaining merchandise was sold at auction. This ended over sixty years of involvement by the Louis Suchomski family in the general merchandise business in the Todd's Mill community.

Louis was the son of John and Stella Suchomski and was born on 26 February 1911 and died on 12 February 1990. Hattie was the daughter of Adam and Pelagia Ochap and was born on 12 September 1912 and died on 8 October 1991. To this union were born six children, five sons: Adam, Sylvester, Lawrence, Gerald and Richard and one daughter, Bernadette. They are shown in the picture taken at the Suchomski auction. *Submitted by the descendants of Louis and Hattie Suchomski*



Suchomski Store



(l. to r.) Back Row: Richard Suchomski, Champaign, Illinois -Salesman for Hillshire Farms meat products; Dr. Gerald Suchomski, MD, Auburn, Illinois-Physician-Family Practice and Professor SIU Medical School; Lawrence Suchomski, Knoxville, Tennessee-Executive Vice President, The Montgomery Group, Inc. and retired ConAgra, Inc. Front Row: Sylvester Suchomski, Pinckneyville, Illinois-Vice President, Suchomski Equipment, Inc.; Adam Suchomski, Springfield, Illinois-Certified Public Accountant, Tax Specialist and retired IRS Appeals Officer, and U.S. Army Reserve, Retired Lt/Col; Bernadette Turner, Jefferson City, Missouri-Mathematics Professor, Lincoln University. Sons and daughter of Louis and Hattie Suchomski at the Suchomski's Store Auction on 27 September 1997.



**IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF**  
**SCHNEIDER/BERG/TIMPNER/FREDERKING/ VUICHARD/VAN VOORHIS**  
**Our Grandparents**



John William Schneider and Ida Sophia Berg married 25 October 1899 in Pinckneyville.



William Bahre Timpner and Laura Ann Frederking married 2 November 1927 in Pinckneyville.

**And Our Parents**



Harold Raymond Vuichard Sr. and Lucille Annette Schneider married 10 October 1934 in Sparta.



William "Bill" Edward Timpner, Jr. and Helen Dorothy Van Voorhis married 9 October 1954 in Pinckneyville.

With Love,  
 David, Donna (Timpner), Michelle, and Tiffany Vuichard



## JESSE WILSON BROCK

### NEWSPAPER CHRONICLES ACCOUNT OF DU QUOIN HERO IN WORLD WAR I



Jesse Wilson Brock

"Less of the romance and more of the horrors of war," the story begins, 'characterize a letter from Captain Earl C. Barkley to the Detroit Rotary Club, of which he is a member.' Captain Barkley is chief of the dental department of Harper hospital unit, Base No. 17. In his letter Captain Barkley writes of a bad "case" which came under his care.

The bad "case" was Jesse Wilson Brock of Du Quoin, and readers of the Evening Call will be interested in reading Captain Barkley's description.

"About two weeks ago," the Captain wrote, "they notified me a soldier had come into the hospital during the preceding day or night, so badly shot up about the head and face they didn't think he could live, but as he had a bad jaw wound they wanted me to see him. So I did, and I saw a man whose face and head were cut and crushed and broken apparently out of all shape. He was bandaged from head to foot because he had wounds in the arms, hands and legs as well as head.

We went to work on him and in a day or two he was fit to be carried to the x-ray room. The plates showed that he had ten or twelve pieces of shell fragments in his head and face, several in his scalp, four in his right jaw, and several in his right eye. The bone of the jaw had been splintered and quite a large part of it carried away."

Captain Barkley told about the operation subsequently performed, and continued. "He is able to get out of bed now for a short time, and will soon be on his way back to the states. Several of the boys in his barracks know what he had done and they told me many tales of his bravery. So today I said: "Brock, (he is Jesse W. Brock of the Twenty-eighth infantry, and his parents live in Du Quoin, Ill.) the boys say you are some Hunkiller." He grinned a little and "... (here the paper has become so tattered from age that the printing is indistinct)...

The boys had told me that he had killed 24 "Huns" at one time at Cantigny, so I asked him to tell me about it, but he was shy about it and wanted to tell me about another fellow, whom he described as 'tough.' I kept after him about his own scrap, until he finally commenced to tell about it, as follows.

"When we finally lit out it was a relief. We followed up the barrage pretty well and got to the Boche trenches before they could come out of their shelters and get ready, but when they did come they came with a rush. Believe me, we were busy. That's when I got my 24 at one time. There were 32 in that shelter, and they began coming out pretty fast, but I dropped most of them as they came out. As I was alone I had to club my rifle until she broke, but still those fools kept coming, so I grabbed a knife and automatic and got my last seven with them while the rest were getting away."

"The boys told me that Brock was the one who knocked down the "Huns" with his fists and finished them off with a trench knife. The wound which brought him to the hospital he got in the Argonne forest, October 10, and some day soon I hope to hear about that fight, for I'll bet he made the "Huns" pay a good price for his eye.

"Brock expects to go back to his trade as carpenter, for, he says, 'I've seen all kinds of one-eyed guys doing that, even peglegs I've seen, although they couldn't do scaffold work.'

"I left him and I'm happy and satisfied about his condition, for when we removed the splint to clean it the teeth came together perfectly, and with a bridge on the right side he'll soon be as good as new there. He'll have a deep scar on his right cheek, one eye is missing, and there are scars all over his body, but he'll be good for many a long year yet."

The paper was brought to the Call office by Oscar Brock, 516 East Poplar street, a cousin of the war hero and himself a veteran of overseas service during the great conflict.

"My cousin enlisted on June 8, 1917," Brock said, "and served with the First Division as a member of Company D of the 28th Infantry. He sailed for France on October 17, 1917, and saw service in four major engagements, Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. He was not wounded until October 10, 1918, just a month before the end of the war, in a scrap just above Aprement. He was discharged July, 1919 after 25 months of service under his country's flag."



## IN MEMORY OF LION ROBERT SUMMERS

Robert E. Summers was born 9 June 1915 in Du Quoin, Illinois. He married Lois Baxter 20 April 1942. Twin boys (Robert B. Summers and Bruce Summers) were born 20 December 1947. Robert E. was a veteran of World War II. He was a member of VFW Post 513 and American Legion Post 647. He worked thirty plus years for Duncan and Fry Furniture of Du Quoin. He was a member of the First Christian Church where he was a member of the board of trustees. He attended one year of college at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

He joined the Du Quoin Lions Club in September 1959. His sponsor was Ralph Dunn. He held the position of club president on at least three occasions. He was also club secretary for awhile. He chaired all club committees at least once.

He was active for many years in the upkeep of the Lions ballpark and the running of the concession at the ballpark. The ballpark area was named the Robert E. Summers Sports Complex in his honor in May 1998. He served on the District 1-CS cabinet as District CARE Chairman, Zone Chairman, Public Relations Chairman and Fun Calendar Chairman. He sponsored his two sons into the Du Quoin Lions Club in 1970 while serving as president of the Du Quoin Lions Club. In 1997-98 his son Bruce became the first District Governor from the Du Quoin Lions Club since Howard W. Lee was District Governor in 1956-57. Also in this same year his other son served as his brother's Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer becoming the first set of twins to serve as District Governor and Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer in the state of Illinois.

## RODELY'S FARM EQUIPMENT

George A. Rodely became an Oliver dealer in March 1942 in Pinckneyville. He operated the dealership in Pinckneyville until January 1944, at which time the business was moved to Du Quoin at 19 North Chestnut Street where the business was operated out of a tin building. In the summer of 1946 a concrete block building was constructed and put into operation. The dealership was incorporated into a family corporation known as Rodely's Farm Equipment on 21 January 1946.

The stockholders were George A. Rodely, William E. Rodely, George F. Rodely, and Eugene A. Rodely. Rodely's Farm Equipment was inducted into the 10 High Club for the Peoria area branch during the years of 1966, 1967, and 1968. The business was operated from the Du Quoin location until August 1997. At this time inventory and contents were sold at a public auction. Gene A. Rodely was the principle manager and operator during this time span.



*Rodely Farm Equipment, North Chestnut Street in Du Quoin*